

REMARKS

In response to an Office Action mailed March 20, 2006 applicants enter amendments corresponding to the allowable subject matter as stipulated by the Examiner in the office action. In addition, applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the telephonic interview conducted on April 24, 2006, wherein amendments to the claims were discussed and it was agreed that canceling the currently rejected claims would put the case in allowable form.

An RCE is filed herewith merely to ensure the consideration of an IDS, based on an opposition filed against a corresponding case in the EPO.

The present application now includes claims 1-32, 34-74, 78-106, 110-112, 116-124, 148, 209, 211, 212, 214-218, 220, 221 and 224-232. Claims 214-216, 220, 221 and 224-229 were allowed and claims 5, 25, 26, 29, 32, 45, 47, 49, 50, 65, 67, 72-74, 79, 82, 83, 96, 97, 120, 217 and 218 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants respectfully note that claims 217 and 218 are independent and therefore allowable.

In order to prevent delay of allowance of the present application rejected claims 75-77 were cancelled. Claim 1 was amended to incorporate the limitation of objected claim 49. Claims 2-14, 17, 19, 30, 34-53, 55-70, 73, 74, 78-87, 89-106, 110-112, 116, 119-124, 148, 209, 211 and 212 were amended to depend on allowed claim 228. In addition, claims 59 and 74 were amended to match the antecedent in these claims to their parent claims.

New claim 232 is based on objected claim 29 and therefore allowable.

Claims 2, 3, 65, 67, 148, 217 and 218 are objected to because of informalities in the claims.

The Examiner submitted that claims 2, 3 and 148 lack antecedent to the terminology "axially displaced extensions". Applicants amended parent claim 228 to match the terminology of the dependent claims and clarify that the extensions are axially displaced.

The Examiner further rejected claim 148 since it is not clear where the claimed structure has support in the remainder of the document. Applicants submit that Fig. 2C illustrates three axially displaced extensions.

Claims 65, 67, 217 and 218 were objected since the term "tube axis" is not clear. Applicants amended the claims to insert the term "longitudinal" before "axis" according to the Examiner's suggestion in the office action.

Applicants reserve the right to argue the claims in a continuation application.

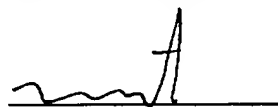
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Applicants respectfully submit that while the Examiner indicated claim 95, regarding plastic deformation, as rejected he did not provide support for a specific rejection to that claim. In preparation for the filing of a continuation application, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner provide a specific rejection to old claim 95 in his next office action. If claim 95 is allowable, applicants will amend the claim to independent form.

In view of the above amendments, applicants submit that all claims are allowable or depend on an allowable base claim, notice thereof is respectfully awaited.

If the Examiner has any questions and/or suggestions with respect to the application, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner call the undersigned at +1 (877) 428-5468. Please note that this is a direct *toll free* number in the US that is answered in the undersigned's Israel office. Israel is 7 hours ahead of Washington. Our normal work week is Sunday through Thursday.

Respectfully submitted,
Oren GLOBERMAN et al.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maier Fenster', is written over a horizontal line.

Maier FENSTER
Reg. No. 41,016

June 12, 2006

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